

Message Text

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3749

INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

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AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY OSLO

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STOCKHOLM 354

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, PO, SW

SUBJECT: SWEDISH SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC DELEGATION TO PORTUGAL

REF: STOCKHOLM 160

1. BERNT CARLSSON, INTERNATIONAL SECRETARY OF THE SWEDISH SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY, INFORMED EMBASSY OFFICER THAT A 14-MEMBER DELEGATION OF THE SWEDISH SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY LEFT STOCKHOLM JAN. 21 FOR A 10-DAY FACT-FINDING VISIT TO PORTUGAL. THE DELEGATION WAS LED BY THE DEPUTY CHIEF OF THE PARTY'S ORGANIZATIONAL SECTION, ROLF THEORIN, AND INCLUDED REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE LABOR ORGANIZATION(LO), THE STUDENT MOVEMENT (SSU), AND THE WORKERS EDUCATIONAL ORGANIZATION (AFB).

2. ACCORDING TO CARLSSON, THE DELEGATION MEMBERS (WHOM HE DESCRIBED AS "TECHNICIANS") WOULD DIVIDE UP INTO SUB-GROUPS UPON ARRIVAL IN LISBON AND FAN OUT OVER THE COUNTRY. PURPOSE OF THE VISIT, CARLSSON SAID, IS TO DETERMINE THE BASIC NEEDS OF THE PORTUGUESE SOCIALISTS AND TRADE UNIONS
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AND THEN DECIDE HOW SWEDISH SOCIAL DEMOCRATS CAN ASSIST

THEM. THE DELEGATION WILL MEET PS LEADER SOARES WHILE IN PORTUGAL, HE ADDED.

3. CARLSSON SAID SWEDISH SOCIAL DEMOCRATS WERE BECOMING INCREASINGLY CONCERNED ABOUT DEVELOPMENTS IN PORTUGAL WHICH SUGGESTS POSSIBILITY OF EVENTUAL COMMUNIST TAKE-OVER. MAKING ANALOGY TO POST-WWII CZECHOSLOVAKIA, HE SAID THAT WHILE SITUATION IN PORTUGAL WAS NOT YET COMPARABLE TO FEBRUARY 1948, IT WAS SIMILAR TO DECEMBER 1947. HOWEVER, CARLSSON ASSERTED, WHILE IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA NON-COMMUNISTS HAD RESIGNED FROM CZECH GOVERNMENT WHEN THINGS HAD GONE AGAINST THEM, PORTUGUESE SOCIALISTS, DESPITE THEIR THREATS, HAD NO INTENTION OF LEAVING FIELD TO COMMUNISTS. (SWEDISH SOCIAL DEMOCRATS HAVE BECOME INCREASINGLY SKEPTICAL OF THE POSITION OF PRIME MINISTER GONCALVES, HE SAID.) CARLSSON CONCEDED THAT SWEDISH SOCIAL DEMOCRATS HAD URGED SOARES NOT TO RESIGN FROM CABINET REGARDLESS OF PROVOCATION. SWEDISH VIEW, CARLSSON ADDED, IS THAT IF ELECTIONS CAN BE HELD, COMMUNISTS WILL BE PUSHED INTO MINORITY POSITION REFLECTING THEIR TRUE STRENGTH. KEY QUESTION, HE CONCLUDED, IS WHETHER BALLOTING WILL EVER TAKE PLACE.

4. COMMENT: CARLSSON'S APPREHENSION RE GROWING ROLE OF COMMUNISTS IN PORTUGUESE GOVERNMENT IS FURTHER INDICATION OF CONCERN OF SWEDISH LEADERSHIP THAT UNLESS ASSISTED BY WEST EUROPEAN SOCIALISTS, COMMUNIST TAKE-OVER COULD ENSUE IN PORTUGAL. SENDING OF 14-MEMBER GROUP TO PORTUGAL, FOLLOWING EARLIER GOVERNMENTAL AND PARTY DELEGATIONS TO THAT COUNTRY, IS EVIDENCE OF SWEDISH DETERMINATION (WITHIN LIMITS OF SWEDISH RESOURCES) TO MAKE MAJOR EFFORT TO STRENGTHEN PS IN ORDER TO AVERT COMMUNIST SEIZURE OF POWER.
STRAUSZ-HUPE

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